

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 PRS-01 INR-11

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R 270557Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 156

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

USSAG

DIA

13 AF

13 AF SURGEON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5890

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,LA

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA

REF: VIENTIANE 5831

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SOUVANNA'S MEDICAL CONDITION DURING THE PAST THIRTY-SIX HOURS. NO LABORATORY WORK OR EKG WERE PERFORMED ON JULY 26. HE WAS PLACED IN AN UP-RIGHT POSITION IN BED FOR 10-15 MINUTES THREE TIMES ON JULY 26 AND TOLERATED THIS WELL WITHOUT CHANGE IN BLOOD PRESSURE OR PULSE. AS THE PRIME MINISTER REGAINS HIS STRENGTH HIS STRONG PERSONALITY WILL BEGIN TO ASSERT ITSELF. HE PROMISES TO BE A VERY DIFFICULT PATIENT TO MANAGE. HE WAS SO PLEASED AT BEING ABLE TO SIT UP THAT HE ASKED WHY HE COULD NOT REMAIN IN A SITTING POSITION THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

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2. THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GROUP CONTINUES TO DISBAND, WITH THE FRENCH LEAVING JULY 27. THE CHINESE DEPARTURE WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL JULY 31 DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING RESERVATIONS TO HANOI. THE THAI WILL REMAIN UNTIL SOUVANNA GOES TO FRANCE, ABOUT AUGUST 16. DR. KLIKS AND HIS TEAM WILL RETURN TO CLARK ON MONDAY, JULY 29.

3. SOUVANNA'S FAMILY HAS SPOKEN TO KLIKS AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH HAS ASKED ME ABOUT HIS STAYING ON THROUGH AUGUST 16. THEY ARE QUITE CONCERNED THAT MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS WILL ARISE AND WANT ANOTHER CARDIOLOGIST IN ATTENDANCE IN ADDITION TO THE THAI. I EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THE PERIOD OF GREATEST DANGER HAD PASSED, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER APPEARED TO BE MAKING A GOOD RECOVERY, AND THAT DR. KLIKS HAD MANY OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE VERY EASY TO CONTACT KLIKS BY TELEPHONE IF CONSULTATION WERE NECESSARY AND THAT IN AN EMERGENCY HE COULD RETURN IN THREE HOURS. WE DID AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT DR. KLIKS WOULD RETURN TO VIENTIANE ON AUGUST 5 AND AUGUST 12 TO EXAMINE SOUVANNA AND REMAIN OVERNIGHT. THE FAMILY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THIS COMPROMISE. I HOPE THAT 13 AF CAN GO ALONG WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT.

4. ONE ADDITIONAL PROBLEM MAY SURFACE. THE FRENCH ARE LOOKING INTO ARRANGEMENTS TO TRANSPORT SOUVANNA TO FRANCE. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THIS BUT IT WOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE IF WE WERE ASKED TO ASSIST.
WHITEHOUSE

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